Return of the holy 'kalgi' and other relics to the Sikh Community from British Government

2738. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative for the return of the holy "Kalgi" of Shri Guru Gobind Singh and other relics to the Sikh community in India from the British Government which were taken away by Lord Dalhousie after the annexation of Punjab to the British empire in 1849;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what action Government propose to take for the return of the sacred 'Kalgi' and other relics from the British Government keeping in view the Sikh religious sentiments attached to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have been greatly interested in acquiring these relics and would be willing to examine any fresh evidence regarding their whereabouts with a view to acquiring them.

दक्षिण बिहार में वनों की कटाई

2727. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दक्षिण बिहार और छोटा नागपुर क्षेत्र में वनों की कटाई के फलस्वरूप क्षेत्रीय जलवायु प्रभावित हुई है और सम्पूर्ण क्षेत्र में वर्षा कम होने के कारण वहां सूखे की स्थिति निरन्तर बढ़ती जा रही है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पर्यावरण विभाग वास्तविक स्थिति से निपटने के लिए स्थानीय निवासियों को वनों की कटाई की रोकथाम के लिए प्रेरित करता है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में क्षेत्रीय निवासियों को जागरूक बनाने के उद्देश्य से चलचित्रों के प्रभावशाली एवं लोकप्रिय माध्यमों से पर्यावरण संबंधी संदेश प्रसारित करने के लिए ऐसी चित्रकथा लेखकों, निर्देशकों एवं चलचित्र निर्माताओं को आर्थिक सहायता उपलब्ध कराकर उन्हें इस प्रकार से संदेशप्रद वृतचित्रों के निर्माण हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि भाग (ख) और (ग) का उत्तर "हां" है तो इस संबंध में कब तक कार्यवाही किये जाने की संभावना है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) दक्षिणी बिहार में वनों की कटाई के कारण वर्षा में कमी होने की कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है।

(ख) जी, हां। राज्य वन विभाग की एक प्रणाली है जिसके अनुसार स्थानीय लोगों को सतत् प्रबंधन की संकल्पना को ध्यान में रखते हुए उनकी वास्तविक और घरेलू खपत के लिए कतिपय वन उत्पादों के उपयोग की अनुमति देने की व्यवस्था है।

(ग) और (घ) फिल्मों, नाटकों और अन्य जन संचार माध्यमों के जरिए वनों की कटाई को रोकने के बारे में जन जागरूकता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से सरकार नियमित कार्यक्रम चलाती है जिनके लिए अलग-अलग मामलों के गुण-दोष के आधार पर वित्तीय सहायता मुहैया कराई जाती है।

Pollution in Yamuna

2728. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present level of pollution of yamuna at various points in Delhi;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in The Indian Express of 10th August, 1993 captioned "Luxury hotels violate pollution rules";

(c) if so, how many prosecution proceedings have been initiated in pollutions cases with reference to Yamuna rivers; and

(d) what are the details of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The level of pollution of the river Yamuna at various stretches from Palla to Wazirabad has been classified as Class-C (fit for drinking after treatment) and downstream Wazirabad to Okhla is classified as Class-E (fit for industrial use). The classifications are based on pollution levels which are as follows:—

No.	Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	Coliform MPN/100 ml.
1. Palla to Wazirabad	8.18	3.7	1077
2. Wazirabad to Okhla Barrage	0.68	22.6	350000

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) & (d) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board, 184 cases with reference to Yamuna river have been filed against polluting industries under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for discharging effluent above prescribed standards. 106 cases have been decided out of which 104 have been against the industries.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

2729. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals of State Governments are pending with the Ministry for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether Government are aware that small irrigation projects or water supply schemes to be undertaken in or through forest areas, the States Government has to approach the Regional Office at Bhopal or to the Government of India and hence delay occurs; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government would amend the Act and entrust the powers to State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) 226 proposals for diversion of forest land were pending with Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as on 30.11.1993.

(b) Revised consolidated guidelines have been issued on 25.10.92 in order to streamline and decentralise the examination of proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Revised guidelines, *inter alia*, include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservators of Forests to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. excluding proposals in respect of regularisation of encroachments and mining and examination of all other proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with the State Advisory Group comprising of representatives of the concerned State Government. The delay in clearance of the projects under the Act is mainly because of non furnishing/late submission of information required for examination of proposal, by the State Governments.

(c) At present no proposal is under consideration of this Ministry to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for delegating power to the State Government under the Act.